

CASE STUDY: THE SPICE EXCHANGE



The Spice Exchange promotes multiculturalism in Australia whilst providing skill sets and work experience for migrant and refugee women

AT A GLANCE



Target Participants

Women at Risk visa holders



Aim

To engage women from diverse cultural backgrounds and build social connections and employment opportunities



Organisations Involved

Access Community Services Ltd



Location

Logan, Queensland



Funding

The Spice Exchange is a social enterprise, with all profits invested back into the program

The Spice Exchange is a social enterprise

of Access Community Services Limited that utilises the culinary skills and traditions of refugee and migrant women to produce unique spice blends and condiments.

The Spice Exchange promotes multiculturalism by providing employment, training and work experience to culturally diverse women to develop their workplace skills and confidence in Australia.

As well as a palpable sense of pride that accompanies the meals they prepare, getting together also provides women with an opportunity for laughter and shared experiences. More often than not, the stories and customs behind the dishes are as fascinating as the flavours.

Through the passion that women have to share their food, Access Community Services identified an opportunity to develop a unique social enterprise that would utilise women's existing skills from their country of origin. It's these unique skills that have become a foundation for building employment opportunities, training and skills for women seeking to enter the Australian workforce.

Project Outcomes:

With a growing market for multicultural food in Australia and a wonderful story to accompany, 'The Spice Exchange' was created. The outcomes being an operational social business model in line with Access Community Services' organisational mission and vision, to create opportunities for individuals to become empowered and self-sufficient. The Spice Exchange has partnered with the Harmony on Carmody Café, another social enterprise of Access Community Services, to ensure all ingredients are fresh and sourced locally.

The Spice Exchange is both a social enterprise and an employment training pathway program that provides practical skills and workplace experience. It allows women to gain experience in a culturally responsive workplace environment where they can learn employability skills and develop a greater understanding of Australian business practices.

'I have three qualifications, but I don't get a job, it's hard...' At The Spice Exchange 'they helped me a lot... I learn a lot of things, and I learn lot of experiences, can share my ideas...we have own spices in our countries and we can give ideas to use them. It has used my skills, and helped me a lot, and I learned to do it quickly over time. When I started it took me long time to do the work, but now it is easy to do.'

Mabil

*28 years old
from South Sudan*

For More Information Visit:

<http://www.spiceexchange.com.au>

